

## WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: VETERANS' SERVICES

DATE: NOVEMBER 3, 2006

---

---

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS STEC  
BENTLEY

OTHERS PRESENT:

WILLIAM MCGARR, DIRECTOR, VETERANS' SERVICES  
REPRESENTING THE AMERICAN LEGION:

VIC LEFEBVRE  
JOHN LORD  
LEON R. SPATH  
DICK GIJANTO

JOAN SADY, CLERK

SUPERVISORS:

CAIMANO  
KENNY  
O'CONNOR  
SHEEHAN  
TESSIER  
F. THOMAS  
VANNESS

MAURY THOMPSON, *THE POST STAR*

GORDON WOODWORTH, *THE CHRONICLE*

DAVID STORY, CHANNEL 8 NEWS

GEORGE STEC, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY

MATT SOKOL, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY

AMANDA ALLEN, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

---

---

Mr. Stec called the meeting of the Veterans' Services Committee to order at 9:34 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the prior meeting subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Mr. Stec apprised that the Committee had been called together for consideration of a proposed resolution admonishing Senator Kerry for his remarks regarding the United States Military service members. Mr. Stec read the proposed resolution to the Committee, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Stec stated that the resolution, presented on behalf of the Veterans of Warren County, himself included, was a very minimal and appropriate response to Senator Kerry's disparaging remarks.

Speaking as a Veteran, Mr O'Connor advised that he felt the proposed resolution was inappropriate and could be misconstrued as a political smear. He added that upon realizing his mistake, Senator Kerry had made a formal apology to all parties offended by his remarks and Mr. O'Connor did not feel that the admonishment was in order. Mr. O'Connor stated that if the resolution was presented to the Board for approval he would

not vote in favor of it.

Mr. Kenny apprised that although he was not a veteran himself, he was connected to the military through the service of several members of his family and he understood the sensitivity caused by the issue. He said that he agreed with Mr. O'Connor's statement and he expressed his concern that there may be some political motivation behind the resolution. Mr. Kenny noted that although he agreed the remarks made by Senator Kerry were inappropriate and the resolution would be largely symbolic, he did not feel it was necessary.

William McGarr, Director of Veterans' Services, stated that regardless of the unfavorable political light that might be shed on the Committee, they were entitled to their opinion and the Resolution should be approved. He added that the reprimand was legitimized by the fact that the recent remarks made by Senator Kerry were not the first of their kind to come from him. Mr. McGarr noted that Senator Kerry's speech, in which the unfavorable comments were included, was politically motivated and it was a crime to portray that the troops of the United States Military possessed a lower than average intelligence.

Mr. Stec noted that his actions and support of the resolution would have been the same regardless of the political season or party involved. He added that it was inexcusable for such insulting comments to be made by any elected official towards the intelligence of the service members risking their lives each day on behalf of their Country.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the proposed resolution admonishing Senator Kerry for his remarks regarding the United States Military service members, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Board meeting.

Mr. Stec thanked the Veterans in attendance for their presence and also for their leadership and past services provided.

As there was no further business to come before the Veterans' Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Stec, Mr. Stec adjourned the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amanda Allen, Legislative Office Specialist